which supports a genuine bilateral dialogue between India and Pakistan to resolve all matters between the two countries. The European Commission's paper was considered by the European Union's Council of Ministers at its meeting on 28 November, 1994. The Council adopted its own paper entitled "Asia Strategy of the European Union" which does not contain any reference to Kashmir as a regional dispute.

U.N. Peace Keeping Operation

2202. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:

SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India made a strong plea at the recent U.N. General Assembly Session that the United Nations peace keeping operations which have outlived their mandate including the UNMOGIP should be withdrawn; and

(b) if so, in what precise terms such plea was made and in what context?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) and (b) In a statement made in the Special Political and Decolonisation Committee of the current UN General Assembly under the agenda item on "Comprehensive Review of the Whole Question of Peace Keeping Operation in all their aspects". The Indian delegate stated that there should be no hesitation in ending those operations which have been overtaken by events or become inconsistent with their mandates.

Abduction of Indian Fisherman by Pakistan Maritime Agency

2203. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Pakistani steamer intruded into the Indian territorial waters of Okha Port in Kutch District of Gujarat on November 8, 1994 and the Pakistani Maritime Agency (PMA) abducted about 70 Indian fishermen alongwith their 10 fishing boats,

(b) whether it is also a fact that when the PMA were taking the Indian fishermen towards Pakistan the latter cut the ropes, ran to the shore and swam back to the country;

(c) if so, the details in this regard;

(d) whether Government have lodged any protest with the Government of Pakistan for intrusion of the Pakistani Steamer into the Indian territorial waters and abduction Indian fishermen along with their boat;

(e) if so, what is Pakistan's reaction in this regard; and

(f) what is the number of Indian fishermen who have been abducted and at present kept in Pakistani jails and what steps Government have taken for their release?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) to (f) No incident of intrusion by a Pakistani steamer into Indian territorial waters occurred on November 8, 1994.

Government have taken up with the Government of Pakistan the various incidents of apprehension of Indian fishermen by Pak authorities in the recent period.

According to information available, there are at present 195 Indian fishermen in Pak custody. Government are making sustained efforts to seek the release of these fishermen. The modalities in this regard are being worked out through diplomatic channels.

UN Observer Group to Leave the L.A.C.

2204. DR. NAUNIHAL SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are seriously considering a proposal to ask the United Nations observer group stationed at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) between India and Pakistan in Kashmir to leave the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that Pakistan has requested that the strength of UN Observer Group at the LAC should be increased from 35 to atleast 200, if so, what are the reactions of Government thereto;

(d) whether it is also a fact that the Group's report are highly biased and give a one-sided picture of what is happening in the valley; and

(e) if so, what actions have been taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir. Government's view is that after the signing of the Simla Agreement, which established the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir. UNMOGIP has no role to play, and, therefore, the question of augmenting its strength does not arise.

(d) and (e) UNMOGIP's reports to the UN Secretary General are confidential, but its mandate is only to monitor violations

of the ceasefire line and not to report on developments in the Valley.

Visit of Indian Delegation to Pakistan

2205. SHRI ANANT RAM JAISWAL:
SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian delegation had visited Islamabad recently; and

(b) if so, what is the purpose of the visit stating the issues discussed during the talks and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) An Indian delegation participated in the Commonwealth Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) held at Islamabad from 22nd to 24th November, 1994. The principal issues discussed at SOM included a review of the decisions of the last Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM), Commonwealth Functional Co-operation and the style and format of the next CHOGM. India's position on the need to maintain a balanced approach in determining priorities for Commonwealth action in terms of the promotion of fundamental political values of the Commonwealth and co-operation for socio-economic development was endorsed at the Meeting. We had conveyed in advance to Pakistan through the diplomatic channels that in the meeting of the SOM, Foreign Secretary, as leader of the Indian delegation, would be available for any discussions, formally or informally, on the bilateral issues. Pakistan, however, has been raising conditions for any talks and did not avail itself of the opportunity to resume the bilateral dialogue.

Indo-Sri Lanka Relations

2206. SHRI ANANT RAM JAISWAL:
SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government envisage any change in the new Srilankan Government's policy towards India; and

(b) if so, in what sphere and what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) and (b) India-Sri Lanka relations have traditionally been close and friendly. The new Sri Lanka Government has stated its interest in sound and cordial relations with India. Government of India fully reciprocate these sentiments.

भारत में सीमा-पार क्षेत्र से आतंकवाद फैलाने में पाकिस्तान का हाथ

2207. **श्री दिग्विजय सिंह** : क्या विदेश मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि संयुक्त राष्ट्र में कश्मीर पर प्रस्ताव लाने में विफल रहने पर पाकिस्तान भारत को लगातार परेशानी में डालने के लिए अपनी गतिविधियां जारी रखे हुए है तथा जम्मू और कश्मीर सहित भारत के अन्य राज्यों में अशांति फैलाने की उसकी गतिविधिया बदस्तूर जारी हैं; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो आतंकवाद, विदेशी राजनयिकों के अपहरण की घटनाओं और अन्य बहुत-सी घटनाओं में पाकिस्तान का स्पष्ट हाथ होने का प्रमाण मिलने के बावजूद सरकार द्वारा पाकिस्तान के प्रति नरम रवैया अपनाए जाने के क्या कारण हैं ?

विदेश मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री आर० एल० भाटिया) : (क) और (ख) भारत के विरुद्ध तोड़फोड़ और आतंकवाद को पाकिस्तान की ओर से निरंतर समर्थन मिलना एक तथ्य है और गंभीर चिंता का मामला है पाकिस्तान का यह आचरण न तो अच्छे पड़ोसी के से संबंधों के अनुकूल है और न ही इस क्षेत्र की शांति और स्थायित्व के लिए ।

सरकार ने पाकिस्तान से कई अवसरों पर पहले सभी स्तरों पर पुरजोर तरीके से यह बात कही है कि वह विध्वंसक कार्रवाईयो और आतंकवाद को समर्थन देना बंद कर दे । सरकार ने अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय समुदाय को भी इस बात से अवगत कराया है कि आतंकवाद को पाकिस्तान की ओर से समर्थन मिलने में क्या खतरे निहित हैं । आतंकवाद को पाकिस्तान की ओर से प्राप्त होने वाले समर्थन का प्रतिकार करने के लिए तथा राष्ट्र की एकता एवं अखडता की सुरक्षा के लिए सभी आवश्यक उपाय करने के लिए सरकार कृतसंकल्प है ।

बीजा-प्रतिबन्ध का समाप्त किया जाना

2208. **श्री आस मोहम्मद :**
श्री कनकसिंह मोहनसिंह मंगरोला :

क्या **विदेश** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार देश मे पर्यटन उद्योग को बढ़ावा देने के उद्देश्य से कतिपय देशों के मामले में लगाये गए बीजा-प्रतिबंध को समाप्त करने का विचार रखती है;